

Kelli Jackson, Travis Johnston, Robert Jones, Samata Katta, Yeongsik Kim, Allie Kimmel, Natalie Kirilichin, Kimberly Knackstedt, Michael Kreps, Theresa Lau, Abby Laver, Elizabeth Letter, Michael Linden, Amanda Lowe, Mairiad Lynn, Kara Marchione, Bryce McKibben, Nikki McKinney, Nick McLane, Leticia Medero, Sarah Monteith, Elisa Morales, Meghan Mott, Sarah Mueller, Megan Mullett, Ryan Myers, Hannah Oakley, Osaremen Okolo, Emily O'Neill, Krista O'Neill, Josh Oppenheimer, Amar Pandya, Madeline Pannell, Casey Peeks, Amanda Perez, Melanie Rainer, John Righter, Mary Robbins, Sarah Rosenberg, Carly Rush, Madeleine Russak, Lauren Ruvo, Laurel Sakai, Jeff Sanchez, Michelle Sanchez, Sherie Lou Santos, Susannah Savage, Evan Schatz, Emily Schlicting, Leila Schochet, Shruti Shah, Joseph Shantz, Kristopher Sharp, Bart Sheard, Amanda Shelton, Amy Smith, Lafe Solomon, Aravind Sreenath, Dylan Stafford, Beth Stein, Aurora Steinle, Jennifer Stiddard, Kevin Stockert, Lindsey Tepe, Paul Thomas, Julie Tierney, Yelena Tsilker, Michael Varrone, Jessica Vivar, Liz Wagner, David Weisshaar, Valerie Williams, Esther Yoon, Andrew Zacher, Sara Zaheer

#### RECOGNIZING BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, at the end of this Congress, I will leave my role as chair of the Senate Budget Committee, where I have had the privilege of leading the Democratic side since 2015.

In January, I look forward to chairing the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which has been led so ably by our colleague, the senior Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, who is going to chair the Appropriations Committee. At the HELP committee, I look forward to focusing on universal healthcare, prescription drug prices, and workers' rights, among other priorities for the people of Vermont and America.

As I leave the helm of the Budget Committee, I want to express my thanks to the excellent Budget Committee staff, led so well by my longtime staff director Warren Gunnels and his deputy staff director Mike Jones.

Not many people realize it, but the Budget Committee staff played an important role in getting this Congress' two major budget laws, the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, enacted into law. Budget Committee staff worked tirelessly with the staff of authorizing committees to ensure that their work would comply with the arcane and often-changing Senate rules.

I believe that history will show that the American Rescue Plan Act averted what would have been a prolonged, painful recession in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget Committee staff deserve part of the credit for that achievement.

The Budget Committee staff and I would very much have preferred that Congress had enacted all of President Biden's more transformational Build Back Better Plan. And Budget Committee staff worked long and hard to

make that so. But that we were not able to bring that entire package across the finish line in no way diminishes the recognition that the Budget Committee staff deserve for their efforts to make it happen.

I want to commend the Democratic staff who served the Budget Committee this Congress: Joey Alpert, Olga Bakun, Nicolas Ballon, Merissa Barrera, Alex Beaton, Sion Bell, Michaela Brown, Montana Cruz, Bill Dauster, Robert Etter, Tyler Evilsizer, Liam Fagan, Danielle Gardner, Billy Gendell, Zachary Green, Nikhil Goyal, Warren Gunnels, Ethan Hinch, Hufsa Husain, Alex Jacquez, Mike Jones, Melissa Kaplan-Pistiner, Mike Lawliss, April Lobo, Katrina Menard, Chris Neubert, Jimmy O'Donnell, Liz Pancotti, Richard Phillips, Ethan Rosenkranz, Hannah Sachs, Joshua Smith, David Snower, Camila Thorndike, Roberto Velez, and Melinda Warner. I believe that there is no finer committee staff in Congress.

I also want to thank our nonpartisan administrative staff, who have so ably served both Democratic and Republican Senators on the Budget Committee this Congress: Ben Mason, Malory Nersesian, Maeve Poulson, Alex Scioscia, Katie Smith, Carlile Soldo, and George Woodall.

In the congress to come, our Colleague SHELDON WHITEHOUSE will chair the Budget Committee. I wish him every success as he takes on that important job. Some of the Budget Committee staff will stay to work with him, and some will come to work with me at the HELP Committee, where they will join able staff that Senator MURRAY has assembled there.

I thank all these staff for the important work that they have done in this Congress and for the important work that they will do in the Congress to come.

#### REMEMBERING JUDY REARDON

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy Reardon and recognize a long life devoted to serving the Granite State.

Everyone involved in public service in New Hampshire knows the name Judy Reardon. When Presidential candidates or journalists on the national level wanted an expert perspective in the Granite State, they reached out to Judy. When prospective candidates for statewide office needed advice from someone who ran—and won—several campaigns, they turned to Judy. When candidates were locked in a tough election fight and needed counsel to get them through Election Day, they called Judy. When government officials needed guidance on how best to use the tools of government to serve their constituents, they sought Judy. When local advocates needed advice on how best to champion their issues, they looked to Judy. And Judy always answered with suggestions and encouragement that were forward-thinking,

incredibly astute, uncommonly direct, unfailingly honest, and oftentimes very funny.

I am one of the many people who counted on Judy's sage advice, and we enjoyed a fiercely loyal friendship. Few people have had an impact on my life—personally and professionally—as much as Judy Reardon. From the New Hampshire State Senate to the Governor's office and the U.S. Senate, Judy filled numerous roles on my team: counsel, legislative director, and senior adviser. But her different staff titles over the years can never truly capture her importance to me or the significance of her work. She was my confidante and always the smartest person in the room. Judy was by my side when we expanded kindergarten for New Hampshire children. She helped me protect women's reproductive rights in New Hampshire. She was with me when we fervently defended the Affordable Care Act for years in the U.S. Senate. She was with me through every tough reelection. Judy devoted her life to public service—specifically, to bettering the lives of Granite Staters.

Sadly, Judy passed away last week after a long period of illness. Over the past few days, her many friends and former colleagues have released statements expressing the magnitude of her loss. It has been a tough week as we grieve a giant in public service. Yet our tears quickly turn to laughter and smiles as we recall fun memories with Judy and remember her fire, her unique sense of humor, her relentless spirit, and her commitment to her craft. I've heard so many stories about her mentorship of members of my staff and young activists who wanted to learn from her, work beside her and match—as best they could—her passion for making a difference. To these people, Judy developed a reputation for being—in their words—"scary" and "intimidating." When they presented their work or an idea to Judy, they knew it would be scrutinized by a brilliant mind who would share her thoughts in a candid way. Still everyone knew that her words were meant to challenge them to reach their full potential, to strengthen their arguments, and to refine their points-of-view. Everyone felt better about a path forward after talking with Judy.

I have known Judy since 1986, and it is difficult to imagine a future without her. I will miss her counsel before big decisions and consequential votes. I will miss her voice in meetings. I will miss her loyalty to me and the shared causes to which we devoted so much time and attention. She accomplished so much in public service, yet her story will continue to be written by the countless young staffers and activists she inspired over the years to follow her example. On behalf of the people of the Granite State, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing Judy Reardon and keeping her family—her beloved sister Patricia

Cornell, her brother-in-law Rik Cornell, and her devoted cat Huey—in our thoughts and prayers.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GHAZAL FAMILY'S IMMIGRATION

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Ghazal Family to the United States, a family whose legacy is inextricably intertwined with that of my State of Rhode Island.

On December 11, 1972, as the threat of violence and conflict in Lebanon festered, the Ghazal family set off for the United States. Arriving at Logan Airport, four young boys and two intrepid parents were immediately confronted with their first challenge: adapting from Beirut's sunny and warm weather to the blistering cold of New England in the winter. Driving south and settling in Rhode Island did little to change the weather.

But as so many immigrants did before them, the family began to put down roots in Rhode Island, settled down and made a name for themselves in their newly adopted country. The Ghazals were sponsored and primarily welcomed and hosted by their maternal uncle, the late Very Reverend Abdulahad Gabriel Doumato, then the pastor of St. Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church in Central Falls, RI, and his wife Victoria, as well as many other Doumato uncles, aunts, and cousins, who had made their own journeys to Rhode Island starting in 1952.

The Ghazal family swiftly became an active part of their communities like so many before them and so many since. Four generations later, the family has grown to 36 with 11 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and perhaps there are more to come. They understand and emphasize the importance of hard work, a good education, and service to other.

There is even a Senate wrinkle to the story of the Ghazals. One of their sons, Jay, worked for my predecessor Senator Claiborne Pell for 12 years and met his wife Maria here in the Senate when she worked for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. They, like the other members of the Ghazal family, have dedicated their lives to mission-driven work. Given this family's history, I am confident that future generations of the Ghazal family will equally cherish and treasure the American ideals their predecessors have adopted and continue to believe in the American dream.

And as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this exceptional family's arrival in America, it is a welcome reminder to honor the legacy of those families who are celebrating their 75th, 100th, and even 1st such anniversary. The story of America has always been and continues to be a story of immigration. I am proud that so many immigrant families, like the Ghazal family, call Rhode Island home. Their con-

tributions enrich our communities and broaden our experiences. Their influence has helped define what it means to be a Rhode Islander and an American.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to the Ghazal family for the next 50 years of their journey in America and thank them all for their rich contributions to Rhode Island and our country.

#### TRIBUTE TO CARL SOSEBEE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to praise one of our fine civil servants—Mr. Carl Sosebee, of Silver Spring, MD—for his service and leadership at the Peace Corps, which has culminated in his role as senior advisor to the Director. Mr. Sosebee's outstanding service in the Agency spans 20 years and a range of roles.

Throughout Mr. Sosebee's Peace Corps career, he has demonstrated his willingness to serve by taking on whatever position and challenge he was asked to fill, whether as attorney advisor, deputy general counsel, acting general counsel, acting chief of staff, and acting Associate Director of External Affairs, to name just a few. Thanks to this breadth of experience, Mr. Sosebee's knowledge of the Peace Corps' operations is unmatched and has uniquely qualified him to serve as a trusted adviser to several leaders of the agency.

Mr. Sosebee's skills and judgement were essential to helping the Agency weather one of its greatest challenges in recent years: the global evacuation of almost 7,000 volunteers at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the detailed planning and systemic changes the Peace Corps undertook to return volunteers to service in a world that has fundamentally changed. It was in no small part thanks to Mr. Sosebee's efforts that the Peace Corps, which just started sending volunteers overseas again in March of 2022, is already back in service in 45 countries, with 11 more on the way shortly.

Throughout his 20 years at the Peace Corps, Mr. Sosebee has functioned as an adhesive glue between administrations, consistently supporting each new leadership team that arrived in the Agency, while also providing career staff with a stable management presence during times of transition. Mr. Sosebee worked tirelessly as a dedicated civil servant to help each administration, regardless of political affiliation, achieve its goals with regards to the Peace Corps.

Mr. Sosebee is highly regarded within the Peace Corps. He is respected by his colleagues for his sharp intellect, professionalism, kindness, dedication to service, and for being a consummate team player. Mr. Sosebee consistently answered the call to service, enabling the Peace Corps to even more effectively fulfill its mission of promoting world peace and friendship.

In addition to his service at the Peace Corps, Mr. Sosebee has held posi-

tions at the Community Services Administration, the Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Prior to his Federal service, Mr. Sosebee was a private legal practitioner, handling criminal and civil cases in the District of Columbia.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Carl Sosebee for his more than 40 years of service to the United States and in wishing him continued success in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH KATZMAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the career of a dedicated public servant, Dr. Kenneth Katzman, for his three decades as a Congressional Research Service, CRS, analyst supporting the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Katzman began his CRS career in 1991, where he established himself as an indispensable expert on the Middle East. Known as a prolific writer, Dr. Katzman has authored hundreds of memoranda, reports, and other writings on the Middle East.

Throughout his time at CRS, Dr. Katzman has covered critical foreign policy issues, from the Gulf War to U.S. sanctions policies and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. His insights and analysis include tracking developments across the Middle East, including Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Dr. Katzman's expertise is deeply appreciated and critical to many Members of Congress and their teams across both sides of the aisle. Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked closely with Dr. Katzman on a number of issues related to the Middle East and thank him for all he has done to help inform my work related to the region.

Dr. Katzman personifies the Congressional Research Service's mission by delivering objective, fact-based analysis to offices across Capitol Hill so they can better understand unfolding events, their historical context, and the potential implications of congressional decisions. It is no surprise that he has been asked to testify before multiple congressional committee and subcommittee hearings covering U.S. foreign policy in Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. In 1996 and, again, in 2001, Dr. Katzman was detailed to the then-House International Relations Committee to support its work on Middle East issues, hearings, and legislation—including the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996. In addition to his large body of written work and testimony before Congress, Dr. Katzman has shared his expertise with Members and staff on several congressional delegations to the Middle East, including trips to Iraq and Afghanistan.

We will miss Dr. Katzman on Capitol Hill as a cherished resource on foreign policy matters. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.